

SOUTHERN RANGELANDS EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AREA

Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the southern rangelands exceptional circumstances area.

- (1) Have pastoralists or the Shires of Mt Magnet and Yalgoo approached the minister to have other properties in the shire to be declared exceptional circumstance areas?
- (2) Has an application been made to the commonwealth government to have other areas of the Mt Magnet and Yalgoo shires declared as exceptional circumstances areas; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Does the minister consider that there are discrepancies in the declaration of the southern rangeland exceptional circumstances area; and, if so, is the minister prepared to make approaches to the commonwealth government to rectify this?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. In answering the question, and for the sake of the record, I should link the answer to the ministerial statement that I made earlier today.

- (1) Yes. I have been approached by the president of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, Sandy McTaggart, and by Hon Ken Baston himself.
- (2) No. The Department of Agriculture and Food is currently preparing an application to the commonwealth government for a new exceptional circumstances declaration for the state. The new application will incorporate an assessment of areas that are outside the current declared areas. This will include the Shires of Mt Magnet and Yalgoo.
- (3) The state government accepts the current exceptional circumstances declarations. The new submission to the commonwealth will take into account all the areas in the southern rangelands that the state government assesses to meet the commonwealth government's criteria for exceptional circumstances declarations.